importers. The criteria of minimum turnover of Rupees one crore in each of the last three years was stipulated based on the recommendations of an Inter-ministerial Committee which had felt that small units would not have the capability to import rough marble blocks/slabs directly on their own.

The dual Policy of 2008 has been superseded and amended by a new unified Policy based on a uniform single set of criteria, announced *vide* Policy Circular No. 12 dated 23rd October, 2009. The new Policy not only permits inclusion of new units every year, but also ensures uniformity in allocation for a large number of domestic processors having capability to import themselves and process rough marble blocks/slabs.

Inclusion of domestic processors for the eligibility for import of rough marble blocks/slabs was appreciated by the trade, as well as the Government of Rajasthan.

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WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Acquiring mining rights of Ramandurg iron ore by MMTC

2152. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Mineral and Metal Trading Corporation (MMTC) has acquired mining rights pertaining to Ramandurg iron ore mine in Bellary district, Karnataka;

(b) if so, the salient details of Ramandurg mine indicating its estimated reserve, terms and conditions of acquisition etc.;

(c) the details of the process which culminated into MMTC's obtaining grant of the mining right and objective behind the acquisition;

(d) whether MMTC acquired any other iron mines preceding Ramandurg; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Subsidising bio-fuel production by industrialised countries

2153. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR:
SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether industrialised countries are spending a gigantic amount of nearly $15 billion on subsidies for bio-fuel raw-material cultivation or meeting the requirements of bio-diesel derived from palm oil, etc.; and